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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 23, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### THE NEED FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a much-needed investment in our Nation's infrastructure, specifically our water infrastructure.

Let me be very clear: Our crumbling and outdated water infrastructure is in a state of emergency. It is leaving our most vulnerable Americans struggling

with water access and unaffordable rates, including my hometown of Detroit, Michigan.

I want to commend President Biden and my colleagues for promoting the American Jobs Plan, a comprehensive Federal investment to repair and strengthen our infrastructure.

This could not be more timely, as Federal investment in public water infrastructure projects have fallen from 63 percent of our overall investment in 1977 to just 9 percent in 2014.

The American Jobs Plan will deliver the investments we need and eliminate all lead pipes and service lines in our drinking water systems.

It is unacceptable that in the United States of America, schools are forced to put plastic bags over their drinking fountains because it is not safe for our children to drink water because there are elevated levels of lead.

Too much of our existing infrastructure is jeopardized because of lead pipes. My home State of Michigan knows about this issue all too well. The Flint water crisis brought national attention to the dangers of elevated levels of lead in our drinking water.

Unfortunately, what happened in Flint is happening all across this country. In my district, the same problem exists in the city of Detroit. About 1,500 children under the age of 6 test positive for elevated levels of lead every year, and of those tested, about 7 percent are diagnosed with lead poisoning.

Congress cannot stand by and watch as Americans get sick and poisoned from their own drinking water.

I always like to emphasize: Water is not a luxury. A pothole is an inconvenience, but water is a necessity to life.

We have the opportunity to address this issue right now by passing the American Jobs Plan. It is a once-in-a-generation investment in our communities and families. It also includes provisions similar to my legislation,

the WATER Act. My bill would fully fund the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds, provide funding for public schools to test and replace drinking water infrastructure, provide grants to replace lead service lines leading to our households, and much more to fix and strengthen our water infrastructure.

Earlier this Congress, I submitted Community Project Funding requests to support water system improvements for two of my communities: Pontiac and Royal Oak Township. These communities are not alone. Similar water system improvement projects are needed across the country. With the American Jobs Plan, we can make that a reality.

I look forward to continuing to fight for access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water for every American.

### THE NEED FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this April, the House Agriculture Committee hosted an important hearing on one of America's most pressing issues, broadband connectivity.

For years, the digital divide has left many Americans unable to access reliable high-speed internet service, resulting in lost opportunities to expand businesses, learn new skills, or even participate in daily activities.

I see this cost and frustration every day. I am fortunate to live in the service territory of a rural electric cooperative which offers quality internet services to my home. But, just a few miles away, my neighbors are on the wrong side of the digital divide.

I represent 14 counties in rural Pennsylvania, and I can tell you, it is like

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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